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1960

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH
OF THE
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS

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Medical Officer of Health



ISLE OF WIGHT:

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To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council:—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate rose from 13.6 to 15.5.

The Death Rate rose from 13.1 to 14.1.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 4.3 to 19.1. It was 21.2 in 1958.

There was no death in an illegitimate infant.

The number of deaths from cancer rose from 33 to 35, nine of these were due to cancer of the lung (8 males and 1 female).

Deaths from cancer of the female breast rose from 4 to 5.

Heart disease was certified as being the cause of death in 90 cases. Coronary artery disease was the cause in 35 of the cases, 24 in males and 11 in females.

There were no deaths from motor accidents during the year.

One death from suicide was recorded, a female.

Nine of the deaths were due to pneumonia and eleven were due to bronchitis.

One case only of measles was notified during the year and two cases only of whooping cough. Again it is hard to believe that this presents anything like the true picture of the incidence of these infections.

No case of food poisoning was notified and there was no case of diphtheria, enteric fever or poliomyelitis.

Seventy samples of raw milk were examined during the year. In no case was tuberculosis or brucella abortus isolated.

Problem Families

Even with the social services on hand it is extremely difficult to handle many of these cases. One of the principal causes in the creation of these families is the low mentality of the parents.

In one case the bedrooms of the house were found in an appalling state. The floor was covered with human excreta, urine and vomit. No attempt had been made to clear this up. Dirty sheets and old clothes lay piled in a corner of the room. The air throughout the house was in consequence foul. All attempts to help have proved useless. Gifts of mattresses, clothing and rubber sheets had been ruined and rendered useless within six months.

The state of children reared in these conditions can well be imagined.

As one studies these families the enormous mistake of forcing a pregnant girl to marry the father of her child to save bringing disgrace on the family stands out clearly.

With no bond of affection tensions are created either overt or covert. Even worse may be the growing state of indifference. Flights into alcohol become more or less permanent and conceptions occur during a drunken state with the consequence that in such cases an unwanted child is born each year. The father finds himself unable to keep a job owing to his basic immaturity aggravated by alcohol.

Mother drifts into drudgery and the conditions in the home deteriorate. They are undesirable tenants and slide into poorer and poorer accommodation with progressive overcrowding. The children, who in spite of everything are usually devoted to their parents, may have to be taken into care from time to time, during severe social crises.

The Aged

The growing problem of the care of old people, especially those living alone, is a major challenge to the social services.

One of the difficulties is locating those in need of help; another is the even greater one of persuading the individual to accept help.

These good people are mostly fiercely independent and resent "interference" even when they are almost on their last legs. Enormous amount of tact and special understanding is needed in dealing with these cases.

It is not possible and indeed it is not wise *to impose* the available services on the aged.

Much improvement can be made by frequent visits of qualified persons who have wide experience with the special problems of the aged. But it is usually best for only one person to visit. Multiple visits from workers in different departments are to be abhorred as unnecessary.

Many of the old persons suffer from anaemia and nutritional disorders because they cannot be bothered to prepare a proper meal, especially for one person.

But this is not always the case. One health visitor was asked by the private general practitioner to call on one of his cases. This was a man of 80 years who was furious at a nurse from "the Health" calling on him. At the time of the visit the "patient" was plucking a chicken to have for his dinner. It was true that he had a heart disorder but he lived in a nice cottage in a very comfortable state, not too tidy, with a neat garden and a few chickens. He looked after himself, his house and his garden well.

"When I feel a bit funny, I lie down on the bed. Sometimes I lie down a few times a day. But I don't want any help. Don't you come calling here again dear, I don't need you".

Environmental Influences—Past and Present

The earliest activities in public health practise were concentrated on removing damaging influences from the environment. The primary steps were to control water supplies and sewage disposal. However, as the field of vision broadened other noxious influences were recognised and the public health department began to concern itself with related factors such as the houses in which we live and more recently with the air that we breathe.

The control of cholera and other major infectious diseases could be engineered because the lines of attack were made progressively clear; but no simple significant factor is known in the field of the latest, and perhaps the greatest challenge—the causation of mental ill-health.

Some of our knowledge of development in the child points to factors which are believed to have great significance. To deprive an infant of a continuous relationship with the mother or mother figure increases his chance of mental illness in later life. Broadfront, impersonal means of prevention are, however, of no value in this field.

Each infant is an individual personal problem which only individual action can solve.

Health Education

There are certain limits, ill defined though they be, beyond which it would be unwise to proceed in the matter of health education. That medical subjects hold a certain

fascination for the general public is clearly shown by the astronomical viewer figures for Emergency Ward 10 and similar programmes but it is more than doubtful if these figures reflect any enormous interest in health education. As in other fields of mass information the story with an obvious moral is not popular but masked propaganda skilfully wrapped up in an "Emergency" type of programme often sinks into the unconscious and the message is skilfully and painlessly driven home.

Cigarette Smoking

The general public is more than a little bewildered at the material presented to them on this subject. On the one hand the medical profession is warning them of the dire consequences of the habit while the advertising world is spending a fortune on urging them to smoke more.

If the medical evidence is conclusive then cigarette smoking should be regarded as more dangerous than the taking of so-called dangerous drugs.

How do the deaths from barbiturate or even morphine addiction compare with the deaths from lung cancer? And it is not lung cancer alone which is believed to be related to cigarette smoking. Far commoner, of course, is the smoker's cough, the chronic bronchitis due to the products of the burning cigarette. These fits of coughing can be very damaging to the heart and even to the blood vessels of the brain.

There is an age limit for the sale of cigarettes to children. This law was introduced when the dangerous effects of smoking were not known.

Now that the cigarette is the target of so much scientific abuse, cigarettes may be bought from a slot machine which presumably even in this electronic age, is not yet capable of estimating the age of the customer.

I am glad, once again, to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support. I would also express my appreciation to Mr. P. G. Woods and his staff, and Mr. W. G. Clarke, my Secretary at County Hall, for their unfailing help, diligence and loyalty.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1960

Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:—

R. H. HOWARD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (resigned
January 1960).

P. G. WOODS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (appointed Feb-
ruary 1960).

Additional Public Health Inspector:—

P. G. WOODS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (promoted Feb-
ruary 1960).

H. SUMNER, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed June 1960).

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	5,542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1960) per rate					
books	...	...	...	...	5,567
Rateable value, as at 1.4.60	...	...	...	...	£247,319
Sum represented by 1d. rate (1959-60)	...	...	...	...	£983

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

These are unchanged since the last report.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...	16,950
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident		
population	...	15.5
Comparative factor (births)	...	1.07
Comparative Birth Rate	...	16.6
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still)		
births	...	15.0
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated		
resident population	...	14.1
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	0.88
Comparative death rate	...	12.4
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total (live		
and still births)	...	Nil
Infantile Mortality:—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	19.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		20.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	35
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 262, giving a live birth rate per 1,000 living of 15.5, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 17.1.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate was 19.1 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 21.9.

DEATHS

The number of deaths was 239 giving a death rate of 14.1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 11.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	28
Coronary disease, angina	24	11
Hypertension with heart disease ...	7	7
Other heart disease	23	18
Other circulatory disease	5	3
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	7	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	5	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	12
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	2	—
Suicide	—	1
Other violent causes	—	—
ALL CAUSES	127	112

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	9*
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Totals	4	—	9*

*This figure represents certain cases of pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 " 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
4 " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 " " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 " " 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20 " " 25	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
25 " " 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35 " " 45	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45 " " 55	2	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	
55 " " 65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Total	8	4	3	—	1	*3	3	—	—	

*Includes two cases who died from other causes.

In addition to the above cases notified within the District 4 pulmonary male and 4 pulmonary female cases transferred from the mainland during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Your Senior Public Health Inspector has provided the following information of the inspections and general work of the Department during the year 1960.

The high number of inspections carried out during 1959 has not been equalled this year owing to the fact that it was more than four months after the departure of Mr. Howard before a new Additional Public Health Inspector was appointed.

It reflects credit on the Public Health Inspectors that once again it was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to secure compliance with any of the notices served under the numerous Acts and Regulations administered.

The initial survey of food premises in the District was finally completed during the year, and with great improvement in premises, appliances and equipment, food hygiene has become more and more a matter of personal hygiene and intelligent food handling. With ample food premises in the town it now rests with the public to discriminate in their patronage of individual shops. The more hygiene-conscious food handling staffs are often disappointed at the indifference, if not actual ignorance, displayed by some of their customers in their behaviour, after all the care that is taken in presenting their wares in as hygienic a manner as possible.

Owner occupiers of houses in the District became increasingly aware of the help available to them by means of Standard Grants for improving the amenities of older properties, particularly in the provision of bathrooms.

It is to be regretted that, despite their ability to increase rents by a proportion of the cost of the work involved, owners of tenanted houses seldom avail themselves of this form of Grant.

Although some further progress was made during the year, shortage of staff once again prevented the completion of the outstanding Slum Clearance programme.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

These figures cover the entire work carried out by the Public Health Department and include all aspects of the duties performed.

Number of dwelling houses surveyed (1st inspection)	682
Number of dwelling houses re-inspected (2nd inspection)	1,068
Other visits and inspections (1st inspection) ...	572
Other visits and inspections (2nd inspection) ...	902
Ineffectual visits	215
Total number of inspections and visits made during the year	<u>3,439</u>

This figure is a decrease of 1,608 on the 1959 figures.

NOTICES SERVED

	Informal	Formal
Public Health Acts	70	2
Housing Acts	3	—
Food and Drugs Act	41	—
Factories Act	24	—
Shops Act	6	—
Clean Air Act	1	—

DETAILS AND NUMBERS OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts

Office premises	1
Houses inspected for nuisances	810
Verminous premises	15
Other insects	72
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	10
Tents, vans, caravans and camps	28
Animals, pigs, poultry	34
Accumulation of refuse and provision of dust-bins	27
Drainage works and existing drainage	437
Other nuisances	113
Yards, passages, car parks	2

Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning Enquiries and Collections

6

Food and Drugs Act, and Food Hygiene Regulations

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens	109
Butchers	121
Fish shops	9
Fried Fish Shops	24
Greengrocers	17
Grocers	65
Bakehouses	25
Ice-cream premises and vehicles	47
Cooked Meat premises	9
Other food premises (including licensed premises)	144
Milk and Dairy Regulations	8
Unsound food	53

Informal Sampling

Ice-cream	42
Water	10

Housing Legislation

Housing Survey	4
Repairs, overcrowding, slum clearance	9
Improvement Grants	238
Inspections for Measuring	6

Council Housing

Application for Council Housing	172
Routine Council House inspections	22
Housing Management enquiries	68
Conditions of tenancy	125

Factories Act

Mechanical Power	108
Non-mechanical Power	5

Smoke Abatement

Clean Air Act	3
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Shops Act	63
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Miscellaneous

Searches, Land Registry	4
Public Conveniences	13

Rodent Control	12
Bathing establishments	7
Pet Animals Act	2
National Assistance Act, 1948	2
Fairs	3
Camps and Caravans	10
Visits to owners or builders	74
Food complaints	2
Flood damage enquiries	39
Ineffectual visits	210
	<hr/>
	3,439
	<hr/>

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Public Health Inspectors continued their general duties of investigating complaints, securing the abatement of statutory nuisances and dealing with contraventions of the Public Health and other Acts. In this connection 440 complaints were received from members of the public.

Particulars of the various nuisances and defects remedied in properties, to a total of 218 are tabulated below:—

Doors, windows, frames, floors, sashcords repaired	49
Grates, flues, chimneys repaired	9
Gutters, roofs and rain-water pipes repaired	29
Defective and choked drains remedied ...	13
Water closets and flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	15
Accumulations of refuse removed	6
Wall and ceiling plasters repaired	20
Sinks repaired and renewed	8
New water services provided	2
Pavings and yards repaired	3
Defective walls and pointing renewed ...	12
Dampness abated	11
Septic tanks and cesspools emptied	41

RODENT CONTROL

All Rodent Control work in the area was again carried out by the staff of the Isle of Wight (Rodents Destruction) Joint Committee.

102 complaints of rodent infestation made to this Department were referred to the Rodent Officer who has

submitted the appended figures of the work carried out in this District during the year:—

Total number of properties inspected resulting from notification	101
Total number of properties surveyed under the Prevention of Damage by Pest Act, 1949	574
Total number of inspections to Council owned properties (Refuse tips, stores, depots, etc.)	31
Number of dwelling houses inspected	345
Number of Council houses, business and industrial premises inspected	229
Number of agricultural premises inspected	17
Six major rat infestations within the area were located.	
Fifty-one minor rat and 49 minor mice infestations were dealt with.	

VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL

The Department has, as previously, dealt with all complaints of flea and other infestations in houses and other premises and for this purpose Pybuthrin base powders and Chlordane/DDT base liquid sprays have again produced satisfactory results.

Sixty-four complaints were received of the presence of wasps nests throughout the district and their destruction by means of Cymag powder was undertaken by the staff of the Public Health Department.

DRAINAGE

The supervision of all drainage work, whether the installation of new or the repair of existing, is carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

The co-operation of the Surveyor continues, whereby all plans submitted for Byelaw approval are examined by the Senior Public Health Inspector in order that the design of new systems and method of proposed alterations or repairs are agreed before work is commenced.

437 visits were made in connection with drainage installations and alterations and 57 new drainage systems were subjected to water or air tests under pressure.

The necessity for more frequent emptying of the septic tanks in the outlying areas of the district may well be caused

by the use of modern detergents, which prevent the proper and complete functioning of the bacterial processes whereby solids passing into these tanks would be broken down and ejected with the effluent.

HOUSING

The five year programme of 110 houses listed under the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954 for "Slum Clearance" due to have been completed in 1960, has, largely due to staff shortage, not been achieved.

Further limited progress has taken place during the year and more individual unfit houses were added to the original list of properties and have been dealt with.

The great need for small units of accommodation, suitable for re housing elderly persons and married couples becomes more apparent as time proceeds, but the provision of such accommodation is now receiving the earnest consideration of this Council.

An abstract from the statement submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is summarised in the following return.

HOUSING ACT, 1957

1.	HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED	
	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	26
2.	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953	
	Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2)	3
3.	REPAIRS	
	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts	102
4.	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. FORMAL ACTION	
	Housing in which defects were remedied:—	
	(a) By owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	Nil

5. HOUSING ACT, 1957. FORMAL ACTION

Housing in which defects were remedied:—

(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners	Nil

The total properties dealt with, which have been either demolished, closed or in the process of clearance since August 1955 is 99. This includes 14 individual unfit dwellings which have been discovered during normal housing inspections.

The total, therefore, remaining of the original submitted figure of 110, now stands at 25 dwellings, 20 having been excluded by extension of useful life.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for Discretionary Grants were again considered by this Council during the year.

Eleven applications were received, 3 of which were subsequently withdrawn, five were refused and three were made grants of varying proportions of the total costs of the proposed improvements.

Seventy-four applications were received for Standard Grants, 72 of which were found to comply with the requirements to render them eligible to receive the permitted amount of money for the improvements involved.

During the year the following payments were made:—

(a) Discretionary Grants	9	Total cost: £2,205
(b) Standard Grants	37	Total cost: £3,395

COUNCIL HOUSING

The practice of dividing the administration of this work between the Clerk's Department and the Public Health Department continues as in previous years.

Visits and inspections numbering 387 were carried out in relation to all housing management matters delegated to the department. This figure comprised 22 inspections of houses to determine their condition of repair, overcrowding, redecoration, observance of Conditions of Tenancy and whether the premises were maintained in a cleanly condition.

The number of new houses built within the Urban District for the year was as follows:—

Local Authority ...	Nil houses
Housing Association	Nil houses
Private Enterprise ...	26 houses
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TOTAL ...	26 houses
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises subject to the provisions of these Regulations is appended:—

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens ...	36
Butchers shops ...	18
Fishmongers, Poulterers, and fried fish shops	11
Greengrocers and Fruiterers ...	17
Grocers ...	77
Bakehouses, bakers and confectioners ...	12
Cooked meat shops ...	3
Licensed premises ...	27
Meat storage depots ...	3
Hotels and Clubs ...	14
Confectioners ...	22

631 visits and inspections were made in connection with food premises to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply.

The following list of items included in informal notices indicates the defects and contraventions found as a result of the original inspections.

Number of notices served ...	41
Defects and contraventions specified in notices:—	
Cleansing enforced ...	10
Redecoration ...	25
Protection of foods ...	14
Wash-hand basins provided ...	6
Sinks provided or improved ...	1
Sanitary conveniences defective or insufficient ...	22
Hot water supplies provided ...	9
Ventilation provided or improved ...	11
Lighting provided or improved ...	9
Personal cleanliness (nail brushes, towels, etc.) ...	1
Storage of staff clothing ...	2
First-aid materials provided ...	2
New dustbins provided ...	1

UN SOUND FOOD

The amount of various foods which were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year under review are given below:—

3,352 tins and jars of fish, fruit, vegetables, milk and cooked meats	2,482 lbs.
Fish	28 lbs.
Cheese	87 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Sausages	75 lbs.
Meat and offal	719 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon	123 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Butter	49 lbs.
Poultry	162 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
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	3,726 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
	<hr/>

Making a total of 1 ton, 13 cwts., 1 qr., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

ICE CREAM

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

The number of premises registered in this district for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream is now 99. This number includes 1 manufacturer who produces a "complete cold-mix" product.

Twelve new registrations were made during 1960.

Forty-two samples of ice-cream were taken for bacteriological examination, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	29 samples
Grade II	...	...	7 samples
Grade III	...	...	3 samples
Grade IV	...	...	3 samples

The grade IV samples included in the above table, were obtained from the "Complete cold-mix" producer and this was proved by analysis to have been caused by the presence of *Bacilli Cereus* in the powder from which the ice-cream was made.

It is known that *Bacilli Cereus* is a non-pathogenic organism found from time to time in milk products, which has sufficient effect on the Methylene Blue test to produce a Grade IV result from an otherwise satisfactory and wholesome ice-cream.

In this case, the remaining stock of powder was replaced by the supplier.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

For the period from April, 1960 to March, 1961, samples of food and drugs taken for analysis in the Cowes area by the Isle of Wight County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority, are as follows:—

				<i>Unsatisfactory</i>		
				<i>Totals.</i>	<i>Composition.</i>	<i>Label</i>
Butter	...	...	...	1	—	—
Buttersnap	...	...	...	1	—	—
Buttered Cheese Spread	...			1	—	—
Cheese Spread with						
mushrooms	...	...		1	—	—
Ice-cream	...	...	...	1	—	—
Invalid Bovril	...	...		1	—	—
Iron and Yeast Tablets	...			1	—	—
Sugarless Marmalade	...			1	—	—
Sugarless Table Jelly	...			1	—	—
Table Jelly	...	...	...	2	—	—
Milk (Composition)	...			38	2	—
				—	—	—
TOTALS:	...	...		49	2	—
				==	==	==

In the cases of the two unsatisfactory milk samples, one was found to be deficient in fat and the other deficient in non-fatty solids.

I am indebted to the Sampling Officer of the Isle of Wight County Council for these figures.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

There is a total of 279 shops in this district, and the keeping of a register of such premises is a legal obligation.

63 Shops Act inspections were made during the year which included evening and Sunday observations in connection with "Hours of Closing".

The 6 informal notices served on proprietors were in connection with minor infringements of the law and in no case was it found necessary to resort to formal action.

WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply to the Cowes area is derived solely from the Isle of Wight Water Board.

The sources of this supply are mainly from wells and boreholes in the chalk and green sand at Carisbrooke and the Bowcombe Valley, supplemented by a deep well at the local Broadfields Pumping Station.

The old catchment area at Somerton has now been discontinued.

General improvements were made to the distribution system during the year, including laying a new 12in. main from Northwood to Broadfields Pumping Station.

Samples for bacteriological analysis continue to be taken regularly by the Water Board staff, reports sent to the Public Health Department, and where necessary, check samples taken by the Public Health Inspectors. Tabulated below are the results of the 93 samples taken:—

				<i>Satis- factory</i>	<i>Sus- picious</i>	<i>Unsat- isfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
West Cowes							
Broadfields Well	...	...		4	2	5	11
Newport Road Reservoirs	...	...		—	—	5	5
Low Level Area	...	...		10	—	3	13
Tower Area	...	...	...	10	2	1	13
Newport Road Filtered							
water area	...	...	...	5	—	3	8
Newport Supply area	...	...	...	11	2	3	16
East Cowes							
Tower area	...	...	...	9	2	—	11
Reservoirs area	...	...	...	8	—	—	8
Newport supply area	...	...	...	7	—	1	8

It will be seen that of the total 93 samples taken, 17 from consumer's taps (treated water) were classified as Suspicious or Unsatisfactory.

Eight samples were taken from domestic taps within the Newport Road filtered water area, which because of its source is kept under constant observation, 3 of these samples were classified as Suspicious or Unsatisfactory.

SWIMMING AND PADDLING POOL

There are no swimming pools in the District open to the general public, the only pool being in the grounds of the Gurnard Pines Holiday Camp, which is in continual use by the camp visitors during the summer season and is also used for swimming instruction to the pupils of two local schools by the Isle of Wight Education Authority, by permission of the camp owners.

The filtration and chlorination plant worked satisfactorily throughout the season and all six samples submitted for bacteriological analysis produced satisfactory results.

There is a childrens paddling pool at this camp and another at a Caravan Camp. Both are fed from the Isle of Wight Water Board mains and are suitably chlorinated. Satisfactory results were obtained from the four samples taken.

Caravans and Moveable Dwellings

The licensing system for this type of accommodation previously provided for in Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 is superseded by Part I of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 so far as caravans are concerned, makes further provision for the licensing and control of caravan sites and amends the law relating to enforcement notices.

Standards generally on the lines indicated by the Model Standards of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been adopted by the various Island Authorities and are in course of implementation.

Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 still remains in operation in connection with the control of Tents and Tented Camps.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944 URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1960	...	70
Number of samples found to be positive	... ..	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	... ..	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Local Authorities or "District Councils" as they are termed under the Factory Act, 1937, are responsible for administering the provisions relating to:—

Sanitary conveniences in all types of factories;

Cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature and ventilation in non-mechanical power factories; and

Homework (Outworkers)—Condition of premises in relation to health of outworkers.

A summary of the information required by the Ministry is tabulated below:—

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	108	24	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—
Total	89	113	24	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	4	3	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	29	24	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	36	29	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	40	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	40	—	—	—	—	—

